

The Cresco City Council met December 19, 2011, at 7:00 pm at City Hall. Council members Bouska, Moore, McCarville and Loveless were present. Blake was absent.

Loveless moved to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the: agenda; claims; minutes of the December 5 City Council meeting; Class C Liquor License (LC) (commercial) with Sunday sales to Big Daddy Hideaway Corp d/b/a Hideaway Lounge; Class C Liquor License (LC) (commercial) with Sunday sales to Derek Deden d/b/a The Pitt Stop; pay request #4 from Magney Construction Inc for WWTP Biosolids Handling & Storage Improvements for \$34,892.84. Bouska seconded and it passed all ayes.

Public Works Director Rod Freidhof reported: (a) street department is repairing equipment and sanding streets; (b) water department has repaired two watermain breaks and are installing meters; (c) the final walk-through of the sludge storage project revealed a couple minor items to be finished before issuing the final payment; (d) Alliance Store debris has been cleaned up.

Police Chief Tim Ruroden reported they have been very busy and he appreciated the help from the Iowa State Patrol with the tragic accident a couple weeks ago.

City Clerk Michelle Girolamo reported: (a) financial statements were distributed to council, and all departments are on budget with revenue and expenses; (b) new Theatre projector is installed and the first digital movie was December 9th and the sound and picture were amazing. They have received approximately \$94,000 in donations and pledges including the City's \$30,000 donation. More funds will be needed to finish the sidewalk and restoration project; (c) website address is now www.cityofcresco.com and the old address no longer works; (d) Auditor will be here January 4th to present the audited financial statements; (e) Budget meetings with department heads will on Friday, January 6th at 2:00; (f) Oath of Office for newly elected and re-elected officials will be right after the meeting tonight.

Mayor Bohle opened the public hearing on the status of funded activities and Carla Organist from Upper Explorerland presented the report on the status for the project. The Cresco/Lime Springs comprehensive smart plans are funded through a Community Development Block Grant. Work completed through December 13th includes 5 steering committee meetings, city staff meetings, mapping, data collection and compilation, public input, plan preparation and draft plan. Total CDBG money awarded was \$22,500 with a cash match of \$11,250 and an in-kind match of \$11,250. As of October 31st, the Cresco/Lime Springs project has expended \$11,159.00 from the CDBG grant. Future work includes data collection, mapping, steering committee meetings, other meetings, plan preparation, draft maps, draft plans, final maps, final plans, public input, public review, review of plans by state and plan adoptions. End date of the project is November 18, 2012. There have been no changes made to the CDBG budget. There were no questions or comments and the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Bohle presented three stump grinding bids: (a) Wilson Custom Tree \$1.02; (b) Tarzan Tree Service \$1.05; (c) Walton Tree Service \$1.15. Bids were based on the average cost per inch depending on gas prices. Bouska made the motion to accept the lowest average bid of \$1.02 for Wilson Custom Tree Service for stump grinding for 2012. Moore seconded and it passed all ayes.

Richard Van Genderen questioned the City's policy of charging garbage and recycling fees to all customers on their water bills. The City encourages people to use these services and the Mayor explained that there would be no way to monitor who was using the services. We also don't want people to put their garbage on the neighbor's yard to avoid paying for the services.

Loveless moved to approve a resolution authorizing the City Clerk to apply for credit cards and enter into an agreement with Cresco Bank & Trust. Moore seconded and it passed all ayes.

The Mayor announced that the Tuckek property at 129 6th Ave East is now owned by the City. It was agreed that we would sell the property by sealed bids and auction as we have done in the past. The property is valued at \$128,030 and the land value is \$14,000. The City has incurred about \$3,000 in legal fees. Bouska insisted that the hedge needs to be pulled out as was requested by concerned citizens at the council meeting several months ago. The sale will be February 6, 2011 with a minimum bid of \$14,000.

Mayor asked if there were any comments from the audience and there were none.

McCarville moved to adjourn at 7:20 pm. Moore seconded and it passed all ayes. The next regular Cresco City Council meeting will be Wednesday, January 4, 2012, at 7:00 pm at Cresco City Hall.

Mayor Mark Bohle

City Clerk Michelle Girolamo

Following is a list of claims approved for payment:

Advanced Systems	maintenance	56.20
Ahlers & Cooney	fees	1,653.86
Alliant Energy	electricity	38.45
BC/BS	insurance	22,718.10
Backflow Prevention Srvcs	testing	210.00
Baker & Taylor	books	835.45
Becker, Ryan	yard maint	170.00
Bina, Mike	park board	600.00
Black Hills Energy	gas	204.59
Bob's Electric	supplies	690.21
Bodensteiner Imp Co	supplies	56.19
Bruening Rock Products	rock	1,183.32
Buss, Carmen	mileage	34.30
Cardmember Services	books	104.10
Carman, Jan	mileage	63.27
Carquest	repairs	401.13
City of Cresco	insurance	2,582.69
City of Cresco	refunds, utilities	130.15
CPU	service	50.00
Cresco Heating & Vent	repair	308.65
Cresco Shopper	advertising	555.95
C US Bank	fees	26.38
Dean's Body Shop	repair	470.50
Fareway	bike trail lease	1.00
Fareway	supplies	16.94
Freidhof, Jeff	park board	500.00
Galls	uniform	291.39
Galvin, Paula	park board	450.00
Group Svcs	fees	317.75
Hawkeye REC	electricity	4,823.10
Hawkeye Sanitation	grit pickup	98.61
Healthy Contributions	membership	7.40
Howard County Recorder	service	72.00
IA One Call	service	18.90
IA Workforce Development	inspection	125.00
Ikon Office	copier	119.87
Iowa DNR	training	30.00
John Deere Financial	supplies	529.70
K & H Energy	gas	39.52
Lienhard, Linda	park board	600.00
Mack, Lance	service	250.00
Magney Construction	service	34,892.84
Marco	supplies	75.00
Municipal Mag't Corp	service	600.00
Municipal Pipe Tool	service	9,607.00
Murray Radiator King	repair	30.00
MVTL	wastewater analysis	215.05
Payroll		52,831.04
Pesticide Bureau	licensing	15.00
Petty Cash	postage, supply	28.18
Pool Tech	supply	667.04
Post Office	postage	75.00
Rileys Inc.	supplies	135.45
River City Paving	supplies	178.75
Ruppert Inc.	supplies	320.76

Safety-Kleen	repair	174.24
Schumacher Elevator	maintenance	127.42
Signs & Designs	maintenance	110.00
Southside Truck Parts	repair	238.53
Spahn & Rose Lumber	supplies	784.52
Steel Shop	repair	35.00
Truck Country	supplies	35.12
Tuchek, Michelle	park board	600.00
Tupy Construction	maintenance	450.00
Tyler Technologies	maintenance	607.48
US Cellular	phone	327.79
USA Bluebook	supply	780.88
Wa Tan Ye	tourism grant	750.00
Walton Tree Service	maintenance	850.00
Weber Paper Co.	supplies	75.18
Windridge	parts	54.46
Winneshiek Co-op	bike trail lease	1.00

General Fund	37,820.18
Hotel/Motel Tax	750.00
Road Use Tax	11,196.77
Employee Benefits	16,693.36
Local Option Tax	4,225.69
Cresco Telecom	320.56
Sewer Project 2007	34,892.84
Water Utility Fund	13,323.97
Water Deposits Trust	80.00
MSSU Operations	27,468.50
Capital Improvement	141.52
Yard Waste Fund	194.01

GRAND TOTAL OF FUNDS	\$147,107.40
Revenue Total from 12/6 thru 12/19/11	\$159,579.55

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION FIXING DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON SALE OF REAL
ESTATE AND MANNER AND METHOD OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, the City of Cresco, Iowa is the owner and title holder of the following described real estate:

Lots Seven (7) and Eight (8), Block 7, Beadle & Strong Addition, Howard County, Iowa

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the City to sell said real estate for the reason that it serves no public purpose, and

WHEREAS, the city Council of the City of Cresco, Iowa desires to sell the real estate described above in the following manner:

A public notice will be published in the Times Plain Dealer in Cresco, Howard County, Iowa announcing that this real estate will be sold by auction sale before the City Council at a specific date, time and place and that anyone interested in purchasing this real estate must submit a bid of at least \$14,000 (fourteen thousand dollars). All bids must be submitted to the City Clerk at the City Hall in Cresco, Iowa, by the prescribed date, with each bid specifying the bid purchase price for the real estate and the bid being enclosed in a sealed envelope. All bidders must be present at the City Council meeting in order to be eligible to raise their bids after the bids are opened. The City Council will proceed to auction the property among those bidders for the highest and best responsible bid. Only those persons submitting a qualifying written sealed bid will be eligible to participate in the auction sale bidding by increasing their bid at the auction sale.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids and reserves the right to determine whether a bid is responsible and in the best interest of the City.

The City will convey title to the real estate by Quit Claim Deed.

The City will provide an abstract of title to the property continued to August 9, 2011.

The structure on the property must be demolished or rehabilitated within 90 days of the date of closing such that the property is no longer a public nuisance. The City of Cresco reserves the right to impose other conditions upon the sale at the time the bids are opened.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Cresco, Iowa, as follows:

1. That at a public hearing is hereby set before the City Council of Cresco, Iowa, at 7:00 PM on the 6th day of February, 2012 in the City Council Chambers in the City Hall of Cresco, Iowa and that said public hearing shall be to determine that the following estate should be sold by auction sale in the manner described above:

Lots Seven (7) and Eight (8), Block 7, Beadle & Strong Addition, Howard County, Iowa

2. At said public hearing the Mayor or designee shall open any and all sealed bids and the City Council will then determine whether or not to sell the above described real estate pursuant to the above described terms.

Council person _____ moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution and council person _____ seconded said motion. Thereupon the Mayor called for a roll call vote and the following council persons voted in favor of the foregoing resolution:

_____ and the following council persons voted against the foregoing resolution:

_____ The Mayor thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2012.

CITY OF CRESCO, IOWA

Mark Bohle, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
Michelle Girolamo, City Clerk

Code of Conduct for members of the Cresco City Council

Adopted by the Cresco City Council

Roles, Responsibilities and Respect

This Code of Conduct is designed to describe the manner in which Council members should treat one another, city staff, constituents, and others they come into contact with in representing the City of Cresco.

The constant and consistent theme through all of the conduct guidelines is "respect." Council members experience huge workloads and tremendous stress in making decisions that could impact thousands of lives. Despite these pressures, elected officials are called upon to exhibit appropriate behavior at all times. Demonstrating respect for each individual through words and actions is the touchstone that can help guide Council members to do the right thing in even the most difficult situations.

All Council members:

All members of the City Council have equal votes. No Council member has more power than any other Council member, and all should be treated with equal respect. Council members must recognize that they act collectively as a governing body during properly noticed public meetings. Members must recognize that they do not have authority to make decisions or take individual actions on behalf of the City Council unless expressly directed to do so by the City Council.

All Council members should:

- Fully participate in City Council meetings and other public forums while demonstrating respect, kindness, consideration and courtesy to others.
- Prepare in advance of Council meetings and be familiar with issues on the agenda.
- Represent the City at ceremonial functions at the request of the Mayor.
- Be respectful of other people's time. Stay focused and act efficiently during public meetings.
- Serve as a model of leadership and civility to the community.
- Inspire public confidence in Cresco's government.
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity in every action and statement.
- Participate in scheduled activities to increase team effectiveness and review Council procedures, such as this Code of Conduct.

Policies & Protocol Related to Conduct

Ceremonial Events

Requests for a City representative at ceremonial events will be handled by City staff. The Mayor will serve as the designated City representative. If the Mayor is unavailable, then City staff will determine if event organizers would like another representative from the Council. If yes, then the Mayor will recommend which Council member should be

asked to serve as a substitute. Invitations received at City Hall are presumed to be for official City representation. Invitations addressed to Council members at their homes are presumed to be for unofficial, personal consideration.

Correspondence Signatures

Council members do not need to acknowledge the receipt of correspondence, or copies of correspondence, during Council meetings. City staff will prepare official letters in response to public inquiries and concerns. These letters will carry the signature of the Mayor unless the Mayor requests that they be signed by another Council member or City staff.

If correspondence is addressed only to one Council member, that Council member should check with staff on the best way to respond to the sender.

Endorsement of Candidates

Council members have the right to endorse candidates for all Council seats or other elected offices. It is inappropriate to mention endorsements during Council meetings or other official City meetings.

Council Conduct with One Another

Councils are composed of individuals with a wide variety of backgrounds, personalities, values, opinions, and goals. Despite this diversity, all have chosen to serve in public office in order to preserve and protect the present and the future of the community. In all cases, this common goal should be acknowledged even as Council may "agree to disagree" on contentious issues. Council members shall refrain from abusive conduct, personal charges or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other members of the City Council, boards, commissions, committees, staff or the public.

IN PUBLIC MEETINGS

• Practice civility and decorum in discussions and debate

Difficult questions, tough challenges to a particular point of view, and criticism of ideas and information are legitimate elements of a free democracy in action. This does not allow, however, Council members to make belligerent, personal, impertinent, slanderous, threatening, abusive, or disparaging comments. No shouting or physical actions that could be construed as threatening will be tolerated.

• Honor the role of the Chair in maintaining order

It is the responsibility of the Chair to keep the comments of Council members on track during public meetings. Council members should honor efforts by the Chair to focus discussion on current agenda items. If there is disagreement about the agenda or the Chair's actions, those objections should be voiced politely and with reason, following procedures outlined in parliamentary procedure.

- **Avoid personal comments that could offend other Council members**

If a Council member is personally offended by the remarks of another Council member, the offended Council member should make notes of the actual words used and call for a "point of personal privilege" that challenges the other Council member to justify or apologize for the language used. The Chair will maintain control of this discussion.

- **Demonstrate effective problem-solving approaches**

Council members have a public stage to show how individuals with disparate points of view can find common ground and seek a compromise that benefits the community as a whole.

IN PRIVATE ENCOUNTERS

- **Continue respectful behavior in private**

The same level of respect and consideration of differing points of view that is deemed appropriate for public discussions should be maintained in private conversations.

- **Be aware of the insecurity of written notes, voicemail messages, and email**

Technology allows words written or said without much forethought to be distributed far and wide. Would you feel comfortable to have this note faxed to others? How would you feel if this voicemail message was played on a speaker phone in a full office? What would happen if this e-mail message was forwarded to others? Written notes, voicemail messages and e-mail should be treated as potentially "public" communication.

- **Even private conversations can have a public presence**

Elected officials are always on display – their actions, mannerisms, and language are monitored by people around them that they may not know. Lunch table conversations will be eavesdropped upon, parking lot debates will be watched, and casual comments between individuals before and after public meetings noted.

Council Conduct with City Staff

Governance of a City relies on the cooperative efforts of elected officials, who set policy, and City staff who implements and administers the Council's policies. Therefore, every effort should be made to be cooperative and show mutual respect for the contributions made by each individual for the good of the community.

- **Treat all staff as professionals**

Clear, honest communication that respects the abilities, experience, and dignity of each individual is expected. Poor behavior towards staff is not acceptable.

- **Limit contact to specific City staff**

Questions of City staff and/or requests for additional background information should be directed only to the City Clerk or Department Heads. The Office of the City Clerk should be copied on any request.

Requests for follow-up or directions to staff should be made only through the City Clerk. When in doubt about what staff contact is appropriate, Council members should ask the City Clerk for direction. Materials supplied to a Council member in response to a request will be made available to all members of the Council so that all have equal access to information.

◦ **Do not disrupt City staff from their jobs**

Council members should not disrupt City staff while they are in meetings, on the phone, or engrossed in performing their job functions in order to have their individual needs met.

◦ **Never publicly criticize an individual employee**

Council members should never express concerns about the performance of a City employee in public, to the employee directly, or to the employee's manager. Comments about staff performance should only be made to the City Clerk through private correspondence or conversation.

◦ **Do not get involved in administrative functions**

Council members must not attempt to influence City staff on the making of appointments, awarding of contracts, selecting of consultants, processing of development applications, or granting of City licenses and permits.

◦ **Check with City staff on correspondence before taking action**

Before sending correspondence, Council members should check with City staff to see if an official City response has already been sent or is in progress.

◦ **Do not attend meetings with City staff unless requested by staff.**

Even if the Council member does not say anything, the Council member's presence implies support, shows partiality, intimidates staff, and hampers staff's ability to do their job objectively.

◦ **Limit requests for staff support**

Requests for staff support – even in high priority or emergency situations -- should be made to the City Clerk who is responsible for allocating City resources in order to maintain a professional, well-run City government.

◦ **Do not solicit political support from staff**

Council members should not solicit any type of political support (financial contributions, display of posters or lawn signs, name on support list, etc.) from City staff. City staff may, as private citizens with constitutional rights, support political candidates but all such activities must be done away from the workplace.

Council Conduct with the Public

IN PUBLIC MEETINGS

Making the public feel welcome is an important part of the democratic process. No signs of partiality, prejudice or disrespect should be evident on the part of individual Council members toward an individual participating in a public forum. Every effort should be made to be fair and impartial in listening to public testimony.

- **Be welcoming to speakers and treat them with care and gentleness**

The way that Council treats people during public hearings can do a lot to make them relax or to push their emotions to a higher level of intensity.

- **Be fair and equitable in allocating public hearing time to individual speakers**

The Chair will determine and announce limits on speakers at the start of the public hearing process. Generally, each speaker will be allocated five-minutes with applicants and appellants or their designated representatives allowed more time. If many speakers are anticipated, the Chair may shorten the time limit and/or ask speakers to limit themselves to new information and points of view not already covered by previous speakers.

No speaker will be turned away unless he or she exhibits inappropriate behavior. Each speaker may only speak once during the public hearing unless the Council requests additional clarification later in the process. After the close of the public hearing, no more public testimony will be accepted unless the Chair reopens the public hearing for a limited and specific purpose.

- **Give the appearance of active listening**

It is disconcerting to speakers to have Council members not look at them when they are speaking. It is fine to look down at documents or to make notes, but reading for a long period of time or gazing around the room gives the appearance of disinterest. Be aware of facial expressions, especially those that could be interpreted as "smirking," disbelief, anger or boredom. There shall be no sidebar conversations.

- **Ask for clarification, but avoid debate and argument with the public**

Only the Chair or City Clerk – not individual Council members -- can interrupt a speaker during a presentation. However, a Council member can ask the Chair for a point of order if the speaker is off the topic or exhibiting behavior or language the Council member finds disturbing.

If speakers become flustered or defensive by Council questions, it is the responsibility of the Chair to calm and focus the speaker and to maintain the order and decorum of the meeting. Questions by Council members to members of the public testifying should seek to clarify or expand information. It is never appropriate to belligerently challenge or belittle the speaker. Council members' personal opinions or inclinations about upcoming votes should not be revealed until after the public hearing is closed.

- **No personal attacks of any kind, under any circumstance**

Council members should be aware that their body language and tone of voice, as well as the words they use, can appear to be intimidating or aggressive.

- **Follow parliamentary procedure in conducting public meetings**

The City Clerk serves as advisory parliamentarian for the City and is available to answer questions or interpret situations according to parliamentary procedures. The Chair, subject to the appeal of the full Council makes final rulings on parliamentary procedure.

IN UNOFFICIAL SETTINGS

- **Make no promises on behalf of the Council**

Council members will frequently be asked to explain a Council action or to give their opinion about an issue as they meet and talk with constituents in the community. It is appropriate to give a brief overview of City policy and to refer to City staff for further information. It is inappropriate to overtly or implicitly promise Council action, or to promise City staff will do something specific (fix a pothole, remove a library book fine, plant new flowers in the median, etc.).

- **Make no personal comments about other Council members**

It is acceptable to publicly disagree about an issue, but it is unacceptable to make derogatory comments about other Council members, their opinions and actions.

- **Remember that you are a highly visible member of the City**

Council members are constantly being observed by the community every day that they serve in office. Their behaviors and comments serve as models for proper deportment in the City of Cresco. Honesty and respect for the dignity of each individual should be reflected in every word and action taken by Council members, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is a serious and continuous responsibility.

Council Conduct with Other Public Agencies

- **Be clear about representing the city or personal interests**

If a Council member appears before another governmental agency or organization to give a statement on an issue, the Council member must clearly state: 1) if his or her statement reflects personal opinion or is the official stance of the City; 2) whether this is the majority or minority opinion of the Council.

If the Council member is representing the City, the Council member must support and advocate the official City position on an issue, not a personal viewpoint.

- **Correspondence also should be equally clear about representation**

City letterhead may be used when the Council member is representing the City and the City's official position. A copy of official correspondence should be given to the City Clerk to be filed at City Hall as part of the permanent public record.

City letterhead is not be used for correspondence of Council members representing a personal point of view or a dissenting point of view from an official Council position.

Council Conduct with Boards and Commissions

The City has established several Boards and Commissions as a means of gathering more community input. Citizens who serve on Boards and Commissions become more involved in government and serve as advisors to the City Council. They are a valuable resource to the City's leadership and should be treated with appreciation and respect.

- **If attending a Board or Commission meeting, be careful to only express personal opinions**

Council members may attend any Board or Commission meeting, which are always open to any member of the public. However, they should be sensitive to the way their participation – especially if it is on behalf of an individual, business or developer -- could be viewed as unfairly affecting the process. Any public comments by a Council member at a Board or Commission meeting should be clearly made as individual opinion and not a representation of the feelings of the entire City Council.

- **Limit contact with Board and Commission members to questions of clarification**

It is inappropriate for a Council member to contact a Board or Commission member to lobby on behalf of an individual, business, or developer. It is acceptable for Council members to contact Board or Commission members in order to clarify a position taken by the Board or Commission.

Council Conduct with the Media

Council members are frequently contacted by the media for background and quotes.

- **The best advice for dealing with the media is to never go "off the record"**

Most members of the media represent the highest levels of journalistic integrity and ethics, and can be trusted to keep their word. But one bad experience can be catastrophic. Words that are not said cannot be quoted.

- **The Mayor and City Clerk are the official spokespersons for the representative on City position.**

The Mayor and City Clerk are the designated representatives of the Council to present and speak on the official City position. If an individual Council member is contacted by the media, the Council member should be clear about whether their comments represent the official City position or a personal viewpoint.

- **Choose words carefully and cautiously**

Comments taken out of context can cause problems. Be especially cautious about humor, sardonic asides, sarcasm, or word play. It is never appropriate to use personal slurs or swear words when talking with the media.

Sanctions

- **Public Disruption**

Members of the public who do not follow proper conduct after a warning in a public hearing may be barred from further testimony at that meeting or removed from the Council Chambers.

- **Inappropriate Staff Behavior**

Council members should refer to the City Clerk any City staff who does not follow proper conduct in their dealings with Council members, other City staff, or the public. These employees may be disciplined in accordance with standard City procedures for such actions. (Please refer to the section on Council Conduct with City Staff for more details on interaction with Staff.)

- **Council members Behavior and Conduct**

City Council members who intentionally and repeatedly do not follow proper conduct may be reprimanded or formally censured by the Council. Serious infractions of the Code of Ethics or Code of Conduct could lead to other sanctions as deemed appropriate by Council, such as loss of committee assignment (Mayoral decision), or budget restriction. Council members should point out to the offending Council member infractions of the Code of Ethics or Code of Conduct.

It is the responsibility of the Council to initiate action if a Council member's behavior may warrant sanction. The alleged violation(s) can be brought up with the full Council in a public meeting.

If violation of the Code of Ethics or Code of Conduct is outside of the observed behaviors by the Mayor or Council members, the alleged violation should be referred to the City Clerk. The City Clerk should investigate the allegation and report the findings to the Council. It is the Council's responsibility to take the next appropriate action. These actions can include, but are not limited to: discussing and counseling the individual on the violations; recommending sanction(s).

A violation of this Code of Conduct shall not be considered a basis for challenging the validity of a Council decision.

City of Cresco
Committee Members

Updated January 4, 2012

		Current Members		New Members
Public Works Committee	McCarville	Loveless		
Personnel Committee	Bouska	Blake		
Fire Committee	McCarville	Blake		
Tourism	Bouska	Moore		
CIDC	Bouska			
Chamber	Bohle			
HCED	McCarville			
Revolving Loan Fund	Girolamo			
IRP	Blake	Bohle		